

**PROTECTION OF IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS**  
**USING OPEN CRYPTOGRAPHY**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

The present invention provides methods and apparatus to uniquely determine fabrication details associated with objects, such as identification documents, artwork and limited issue works, using open cryptographic techniques. A cryptographic signature is created using a private key. The private key is uniquely associated with fabrication details such as a workstation, operator, fabrication equipment, fabrication materials, etc. A public key corresponds with the private key; and therefore, the public key is associated with the fabrication details. Successfully decoding the cryptographic signature with the public key uniquely identifies the fabrication details.